IMPORT AND SALE OF GRAINS

214. Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Goverment be pleased to state.—whether the Government has imposed any restriction for the free import and sale of grains and other articles of food by private merchants ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):*

(1) The import of Lakdhall, Oorid and Jaggery without the permission of the Director of Food Supplies has been prohibited.

(2) The sale of rice, paddy, wheat, wheat products and sugar by persons other than retailers licensed under the Rationing Scheme has also been prohibited.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* With regard to answer No. (1) why has it been prohibited ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* The import of Lakdhall was prohibited as it was known to be a poisonous article, injurious to the health of the people. Jaggery was imported by the Government direct under the quotas allotted to Government.

മിസ്സിസ്സ് കെ. എം. ആർ. മേനോൻ: എന്താണ് ഈ Lakdhall?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ: മലയാളത്തിൽ അതിനു വട്ടപ്പരിപ്പെന്നാണ് പറയുന്നതു്. വടക്കെ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ കേസരിഡാൾ എന്നും പറയും.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* If private merchants can get them on their own initiative, why not allow them to import?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* We can allow them. But I have to inform this House that they cannot get it. The Government of India fixes a certain quota for the State. Even the Government of India will not allow private merchants. Over and above that if merchants will be able to get theee articles Government will only be too glad to allow them.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* In that view why not we remove the prohibition for importing them and at the same time fixing the price?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* That is what I said. If they want to import they may.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: ഇങ്ങിനെ ഇംപോർട്ടുചെയ്യാൻ പെർമിറ്റു കൊടുത്താൽ ഇന്ത്യാഗവണ്മെണ്ടു കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിലേക്കു നീക്കിവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കോട്ടയിൽ ഇതു കുറച്ചു ബാക്കിയല്ലെ കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* That is what I said. Without affecting the quota allowed to this State, if they can import, Government have no objection.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Thattamangalam):* Are there not cases now of persons, Sir, that have brought jaggery in Chittur ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* I want notice.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* As the rules now stand, there is the prohibition Can you remove that prohibition ? Then only attempts can be made to get things.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* There is no prohibition. Only sanction is required. Permission will be given, if they can get those articles.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: പെർമിഷൻ കൊടുത്താൽ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിലേയ്ക്കു് ഇന്ത്യാഗവണ്മെണ്ടു അലോട്ടുചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന കോട്ട കുറയുകയില്ലെ ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* That is what I said, Subject to that quota being not affected.

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